



# NEWSLETTER



## FSA's Prevented Planting final report date extended to July 15th

Due to flood and excessive moisture conditions throughout Montana, a request was submitted to the National Farm Service Agency (FSA) Office to extend the deadline for timely reporting prevented planting to FSA to coincide with the final crop reporting deadline of July 15<sup>th</sup> for the 2011 crop year. The request was approved on June 1st. Prevented Planted acreage claims filed by July 15, 2011 will be considered as timely filed. It is important that the FSA-576 be timely filed and approved for a possible 2011 crop disaster program (SURE) or for acreage history credit. Approved preventive planted acreage may also be eligible for ACRE payments. If a request for prevented planting is filed after July 15, 2011, it is considered late filed and will require a minimum of \$46 to have an on-site inspection completed to determine that the natural disaster condition was evident. If the disaster condition that prevented the crop from being planted is no longer apparent, then the FSA-576 will be denied and no benefits will be applicable. If you have insured crops that were prevented planted then you may be required to provide proof that you filed for prevented planting credit with crop insurance. The COC may also request that you provide receipts or invoices showing you had inputs (seed, chemical, fertilizer, etc.) available to plant the acres claimed as prevented to establish your intent of planting.

### 2011 Acreage Reports due by July 15

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification. Acreage reports must be filed for all cropland on the farm before any 2011 DCP or ACRE payments can be made or before eligibility can be established for marketing assistance loans and LDPs. Participants in CRP and NAP must report the specific acreage for which benefits are being requested. Additionally, to be eligible for benefits under the SURE program, all crops in all counties must be reported, including non-cropland that will be hayed and/or grazed. The deadline for submitting a timely filed acreage report is July 15, 2011. Producers are reminded that filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

### FSA Disaster Assistance Available

FSA would like to remind crop and livestock producers who have recently experienced severe damage from flooding, hail or other adverse weather conditions that FSA programs may be available to assist with recovery. FSA administers several programs that help producers recover from disaster damage and livestock deaths. Among the key programs available to address impacts from disasters are the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP), the Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program and the Emergency Loan (EM) Program. Fact sheets for these programs can be found at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov); click on Newsroom, then Fact Sheets, or [www.fsa.usda.gov/mt](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt) under Programs. We encourage all who have suffered a loss due to the recent severe weather conditions to contact the local FSA county office.

### SURE Sign-Up Continues for 2009 Crop Year, July 29 Deadline

Signup for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE) for the 2009 Crop Year began on Jan. 10, 2011 and will end on **July 29, 2011**. To be eligible for SURE a producer must have at least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance and a policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for all economically significant crops. Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without a policy or plan of insurance or NAP coverage. Producers that have a farming interest physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county by the Agriculture Secretary under a Secretarial Disaster Designation or a contiguous county and meet the above criteria are eligible for SURE. All but three counties - Carter, Fallon and Powell - were designated as a primary or contiguous disaster county in 2009. In the absence of the Secretarial Disaster Designation producers may be eligible if they suffer at least a 50% production loss on the entire SURE farm due to a natural disaster. Last fiscal year, Montana FSA administered more than \$36 million in the SURE program for the 2008 crop year. For more info, contact the county office.

## McCone County FSA Office

**June 2011**

**Address:**  
104 10th St.  
Circle, MT 59215

**Office:**  
PH: 406-485-2744 Ext. 2  
FAX: 406-485-2621

**Website:**  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/mt](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt)

**Hours:** 8:00 to 5:00 p.m.  
Monday thru Friday

**FSA Office Personnel:**  
Katie Hebel, PT  
Sue Wittkopp, PT  
Gregg Heide, Field  
Avis Milles, Acting CED

### County Committee Members

Elliot Haynie, Chair  
Duane White, Vice  
David Schumacher,  
Member  
Irene Rathert, Minority  
Advisor

### Agricultural Lending Opportunities:

*Questions regarding obtaining credit to start or enlarge a farming or ranching operation; financing agricultural operating expenses; or livestock, machinery purchases may call the following at 406-433-2103, Ext. 2 at the Richland County FSA Office.*

### Accommodations:

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in any FSA programs should contact the County Executive Director at the FSA Office or the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

## Thousands of Montana FSA participants urged to submit consent forms to IRS to maintain eligibility for 2009 and future years' program benefits

Roughly 5,000 Montana agricultural producers and members of entities who participated in USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs in 2009 and 2010 who have not submitted consent forms to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) are urged to do so now or they will not receive future USDA program benefits. Producers who fail to submit the consent forms to the IRS can be required to repay full program benefits received indirectly or directly since 2009, Montana FSA Acting State Executive Director Richard "Dick" Deschamps said in a statewide news release on June 3.

The consent form authorizes IRS to calculate a payment recipient's average adjusted gross income (AGI) and provide FSA an indicator of whether the payment recipient's average AGI meets or exceeds the limitation amounts for FSA programs. Producers who participated in 2009, 2010, and/or 2011 FSA programs subject to AGI had to certify compliance with AGI rules on form CCC-926. As part of the compliance process, individuals must submit consent form CCC-927 to the IRS and legal entities must submit consent form CCC-928 to the IRS, which are available at county FSA offices and online on the state FSA website at [www.fsa.usda.gov/mt](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt). The form became a requirement for payment eligibility beginning with the 2009 crop year, however many program participants have not complied with this requirement. On Oct. 6, 2010, a letter was mailed to participants who certified AGI compliance who have not submitted consent forms for 2009 and 2010. The deadline to submit the forms to IRS for 2011 was June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011.

"For 2009, 2010 and 2011, the deadline has passed, but individuals and legal entities, including members of entities, regardless of whether they received program benefits directly or indirectly, who have not submitted the form to IRS for any of these years, need to do so immediately in order to avoid a demand for refund of program payments and benefits received," Deschamps. "Even if these producers do not normally file federal income taxes, they must still submit the appropriate CCC-927 or CCC-928. If you're unsure if you have submitted the appropriate form, you can contact your local county FSA office to see if you're on the list."

FSA is aware that in some instances such as Native American participants with little federally reportable income, or individuals and entities that are members of participating entities and have little or no IRS-reportable income on their own, who may not file federal taxes and may have had their CCC-927 or CCC-928 rejected by the IRS as a result. If individuals filed CCC-927 or CCC-928 and it was rejected because of lack of income data, please contact your FSA county office and provide them with a copy of the rejected form and IRS letter. For more info, contact your FSA county office.

### 2011 COC Election Nominations

The election of agricultural producers to FSA county committee starts with the nomination of eligible candidates. To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. This form is available at FSA County Offices and online on the state FSA website at:

[www.fsa.usda.gov/mt](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt). Nomination forms for the 2011 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 1, 2011. Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates. Nomination forms are filed for the county committee of the office that administers a producer's farm records.

### 2010 ACRE Certification Deadline Extended

The deadline for a 2010 production certification to comply with the ACRE provisions for production reports has been extended to COB Sept. 1, 2011. Because of this extension, using a register on Sept. 1, 2011, is **not** authorized. The extension is for completing both the farm benchmark yield (2005 through 2009) and the actual farm yield (2010). For more details contact the county FSA office.

### Farm Divisions/Combinations Must Be Requested By August 1

If you have sold, purchased or leased a farm or part of a farm, please notify this office immediately. If you need to request a farm division or a farm combination for 2011, the deadline to submit the request is Aug. 1, 2011 for those farms participating in DCP/ACRE. If requests are not filed timely, it may be difficult to complete 2011 contracts with all required signatures for the farm. Requests received after Aug. 1, 2011, will be processed for 2012.

### Soil or Gravel Removal and Other Land Changes - Caution

If you wish to plant an agricultural commodity on any land where any soil or gravel has been removed, please work with the local NRCS and FSA offices in advance to avoid the possibility of any non-compliance and loss of benefits. To be eligible for USDA benefits, all producers planting agricultural commodities on predominantly highly erodible fields are required to do so according to the provisions of an acceptable conservation system/plan to ensure adequate residue exists. The NRCS can assist you in developing an approved conservation system/plan, if applicable, for the farm.

### 2011 Managed Haying and Grazing of CRP

CRP participants with approved conservation plans (CPO) that include managed haying and managed grazing of CRP may begin haying and/or grazing on July 16, 2011, provided they have completed all of the necessary paperwork at the County FSA Office and have received **written approval** from the FSA County Committee or its designee before starting haying or grazing. Failure to get written approval before starting managed haying and managed grazing of CRP could result in termination of the acres that are hayed or grazed. CRP participants who do not already have the managed haying and managed grazing provisions in their CPOs should contact the county office to get an updated CPO to include the managed haying and managed grazing provisions. The Montana managed haying provisions allow managed haying 1 in 5 years and 50% of the acres must be set aside for wildlife. Producers may hay the 50% set aside in the following year. Grazing is allowed 1 in 3 years and 100% of the acres can be grazed. Producers cannot hay and graze the same acres. Producers will be assessed a 25% payment reduction for managed haying and grazing of CRP. The 2011 Summer-Fall Managed Grazing Period is July 16<sup>th</sup> through September 13<sup>th</sup>. The 2011 Managed Haying Period is July 16<sup>th</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Nomination Form for County FSA Committee Election:** Below is a nomination form for the 2011 County Committee Election that will be held in early November to Dec. 5, 2011. Persons nominated should actively participate in the operation of a farm or ranch and be well qualified for committee work. This year, a producer is eligible to be a County FSA committee member if the producer resides in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) 3. Duties of county committee members include administering farm program activities conducted by the County FSA Office, informing farmers of the purpose and provisions of the FSA programs, keeping the State FSA Committee informed of LAA conditions, monitoring changes in farm programs, participating in county meetings as necessary and performing other duties as assigned by the State FSA Committee. Completed and signed form(s) must be delivered to the FSA County Office or postmarked no later than **Aug. 1**. Questions: call or visit the county office.

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Form Approved - OMB No. 0560-0229

FSA-669A  
(03-31-11)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Farm Service Agency

### NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION

1. NAME OF NOMINEE (Type or Print Nominee's Full Name)		<b>TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE</b>	
		4. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE RECEIVED	
2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE		5. COUNTY	
		6. LAA	7. STATE
3. <b>NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION:</b>  <i>I hereby agree to have my name placed on the ballot, that I will serve if elected, and if there is a conflict of interest, I will resign such position.</i>  <input type="checkbox"/> I DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee. <input type="checkbox"/> I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.		8. <b>NOMINATOR'S CERTIFICATION:</b>  <i>If this nomination is by other than self, the following eligible voter or representative of a community based organization hereby nominates the afore-named person to be a candidate in the next County FSA Committee election for the county.</i>	
3A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE	3B. DATE	8A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR	8B. DATE
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if nominee is a write-in candidate.		(If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required).	
9. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE			
<b>VOLUNTARY INFORMATION FOR MONITORING PURPOSES:</b> The following information is requested by the Federal Government in order to monitor FSA's compliance with federal laws prohibiting discrimination against program participants on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, handicapped condition, or age. You are not required to furnish this information, but are encouraged to do so. This information will not be used in evaluating your nomination or to discriminate against you in any way.			
ETHNICITY	RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable)		GENDER
<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White		<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM

Complete the form as follows:

**ITEM 1** Type or Print the nominee's full name. The nominee must be:

- A. Eligible to vote in the designated County FSA Committee election.
- B. Eligible to hold the office of County FSA Committee member.
- C. Willing to serve if elected.

**ITEM 2** Enter the nominee's current address.

**ITEM 3** The nominee must check one of the boxes to indicate a preference regarding the settling of tied votes.

**ITEMS 3A & 3B** The nominee must sign and date.

**ITEMS 8A & 8B** The nominator must sign and date. (If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required.)

**ITEM 9** Completing this item is voluntary.

**ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 1, 2011.**

**NOTE:** The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a - as amended). The authority for requesting the information identified on this form is the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-246). The information will be used to obtain nominees for election to the County FSA Committee. The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, Local government agencies, Tribal agencies, and nongovernmental entities that have been authorized access to the information by statute or regulation and/or as described in applicable Routine Uses identified in the System of Records Notice for County Personnel Records, USDA/FSA-6. Providing the requested information is voluntary. However, failure to furnish the requested information will result in a determination of ineligibility for nomination for election to the County FSA Committee.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0560-0229. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The provisions of appropriate criminal and civil fraud, privacy, and other statutes may be applicable to the information provided. **RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.**



**VISIT FSA ONLINE:** Information on FSA programs, the 2011 Montana FSA Farmer & Rancher Program Handbook, forms, state news releases, upcoming deadlines and state e-newsletters and county newsletters & more are available at: **[www.fsa.usda.gov/mt](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt)**

**Selected Interest Rates - June 2011**

Farm Operating - Direct	2.75%
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.00%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency - Actual Loss	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility - 7-year	2.625%
Farm Storage Facility - 10-year	3.250%
Farm Storage Facility - 12-year	3.50%

**FSA: Upcoming Important Dates to Remember:**

**June 15:** 2011 County Committee Elections Nomination Period Begins  
**July 15:** Acreage Reporting Deadline  
**July 15:** Final NAP Production Reports Due for 2010  
**July 15:** Final date to file 2010 crop application for NAP Payment  
**July 16:** CRP Managed Haying and Grazing begins  
**July 4:** USDA Service Centers Closed for Independence Day holiday  
**July 29:** SURE Sign-up Deadline for 2009 Crop Year  
**Aug. 1:** Deadline for County Committee Election Nomination Form to be postmarked or received by FSA Office.  
**Sept. 1:** 2010 ACRE Production Reporting Deadline  
**Sept. 13:** CRP Managed Grazing Period Ends  
**Sept. 30:** CRP Managed Haying Period Ends  
**Nov. 4:** County Committee Election Ballots to be mailed to eligible voters  
**Dec. 5:** Last day to return voted ballots to the local FSA office.  
**Jan. 2:** Elected County Committee members and alternates take office.  
**Continues:** Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

**Submission of Applications via E-Government:**

USDA provides customers with the option to electronically access, fill out, and print paper forms and transmit those forms and other documents to their local Service Center, as required by the Freedom to E-File Act. Customers may also obtain secure payment summary information. A secure website is offered. Logon to: <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov> to register for a Customer ID and password.

**USDA Nondiscrimination Statement/Complaint Process:**

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication and Compliance, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."